

HOUSE BILL 2061
By McMillan

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 38, relative to the creation of the Victims of Crime Advisory Committee.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 38, is amended by adding Section 2 of this act as a new part:

SECTION 2. 40-38-101. Creation.

(a) There is hereby created the Victims of Crime Advisory Committee to be composed of seven (7) members who are either victims advocates, victims of violent crime or family members of victims of violent crime, or persons who have demonstrated expertise and experience in the area of violent crimes. Three (3) members of the committee shall be appointed by the governor, two (2) members shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and two (2) members shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate. The state treasurer, the commissioner of finance and administration, and the executive director of the district attorneys general conference, or their designees, shall serve as ex officio members of the committee.

(b) In order to maintain staggered terms, initial appointments to the committee shall be as follows:

Two (2) members shall be appointed by the governor for a two-year term;

One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives for a one-year term;

One member shall be appointed by the speaker of the senate for a one-year term;
and

The remaining members shall be appointed for a three-year term.

All subsequent terms shall be for three (3) years; provided, that a vacancy shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the balance of the unexpired term. Any member of the committee is eligible for reappointment and shall serve until a successor qualifies.

(c) All members of the committee shall serve without compensation.

(d) The committee shall annually elect from its membership a chair, a vice chair, a secretary and such other officers as it deems necessary from among its members. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the committee.

(e) The committee shall meet at least one (1) time a year, but no more than four (4) times in a calendar year.

(f) For administrative purposes, the committee shall be attached to the governor's office.

40-38-502. Purpose. The purpose of the committee shall be to review and advise on efforts to promote awareness of services and programs available to victims of crime and to the families of victims of crime. Such services and programs shall include, but shall not be limited to, the victim compensation notification provision contained in § 40-38-109, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program, compiled in title 29, chapter 13, the Victims of Crime Assistance Fund created in § 9-4-205, the Victim-Witness Coordinator Program established in § 8-7-206, the Victims of Crime State Coordinating Council created pursuant to title 40, chapter 38, part 4, and

any grants awarded and administered by the office of criminal justice in the department of finance and administration for victims of crime and their families. The committee shall further review and advise on the adequacy and administration of benefits provided by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Program to victims of crime.

40-38-503. Reports. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations, if any, to the head of each agency or entity that administers the services and programs reviewed. The committee shall be an advisory committee only.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.